

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LXVI NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2018

EBARC Meetings

September 14, 2018, 7:30 p.m.
"Organizing a VE Mega-Session"
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

EBARC meets this month at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, 670
Applan Way, El Sobrante (enter parking opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.)

The Executive Board meets monthly before each general meeting. For the date,
time, & location, contact President Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, at 384-4233.



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THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
Post Office Box 1393
El Cerrito, CA 94530

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Oct. issue: Tue., Sep. 25th

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

Temporary Meeting Place!

El Sobrante United Methodist Church
670 Appian Way, El Sobrante
Parking entrance is opposite 5156 Argyle Rd.
GPS coordinates: 37.981938, -122.294720

September 14th EBARC Meeting

Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

Our September meeting will feature Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ. Her topic is "Organizing a Mega VE Session." Recently, lots of Bay Area Volunteer Examiners have come together several times to help the UC Berkeley Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) department. The instructors are encouraging their students to (optionally) become licensed hams, so they can test what they build in class. She'll describe what it took to get (and keep) these "Mega-Sessions" going.

Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for preafrooding this month's *Blown Fuse*.

CCCC/EBARC Picnic

Please attend with family and friends!
Sunday, September 9, 2018
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Miller / Knox Regional Shoreline
900 Dorman Drive, Point Richmond

Go through the tunnel. We'll be across from the train station. Look for cars with antennas. The cost is \$5.00 per person, payable at the picnic. RSVP to Burgie Jones, KE6MSF at 510-964-1476 or burgie0001@yahoo.com, by September 6th so we can plan ahead.

There will be a drawing to raise more funds for the 4Cs Tower Project. If you would like to donate a raffle prize (cookies, brownies, wine, other good stuff), please contact Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, at jkuhl1313@yahoo.com, or text her at 510-846-3829 and bring the item the day of the picnic.

Technician License Class

Ken Fowler, KO6NO

EBARC is offering a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License, starting September 7, 2018 and ending November 30. The class will meet each Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. The textbook is *The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition*. Books will be available for purchase in class. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15.

Please register by September 7, 2018:
Online; www.ko6no.com and click *Register*
Email; ko6no@comcast.net
Phone; Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830

2019 EBARC Officers' Election

EBARC needs YOU to step up and stand for election to one of the Executive Committee positions. The positions are; President, 1st VP (Program Chair), 2nd VP (Hospitality), 3rd VP (Membership), Secretary, and Treasurer.

To volunteer, please contact the nominating committee chair, Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, tteach@sonic.net, or 510-799-6051. Nominations will also be accepted at the November meeting. The election will be in December (either by snail mail or electronically).

October's EBARC Meeting "Open Mic" Peter Hoffman, W6DEI

My wife Dee and I have made four trips to Costa Rica in the past two years, a truly lovely country in many ways. However, it wasn't just for fun. My wife needed fairly extensive dental work, and Costa Rica is renowned for "dental tourism" and rightly so; with excellent doctors at a fraction of dental care costs in the U.S. While Dee was having fun getting her roots canaled, I made the best of it and tried to explore the neighborhood where we were staying. I particularly enjoyed a 10 minute bus trip to the neighboring town of Santa Ana, where I found a great Costa Rican bakery. It's called *Panaderia Sin Rival* (or *Bakery without Rival*). While I wouldn't say that Costa Rican baked goods pose any threat to the finest French and Italian patisseries, I found some things I really liked. Also, there's no better or easier way to immerse oneself in a foreign culture than through the food. *Panaderia Sin Rival* became my daily odyssey.

One day while walking back to the bus stop for a return trip to our hotel, I noticed a nice house, set back from the street, with several 70 foot towers and three or four large HF Yagi

antennas on top of them. Somehow I'd walked past this place a number of times and hadn't even noticed it. It's funny, but since I've become a ham, the elevation of my gaze has risen a few degrees as I compulsively scan the rooftops for ham antennas. I do this in my own neighborhood as well as anywhere else I happen to be. So I was a bit surprised I hadn't noticed this magnificent antenna farm much sooner. I guess I was mesmerized by the lush tropical foliage and exotic birds of Costa Rica and not really thinking ham radio. I really wondered about the person who lived there and was very envious of the grand antenna farm.

Fast forward a couple of weeks and we were home again with healthy teeth, back to our usual routines. As I was tuning around the SSB portion of 20 meters one night, I heard an S9 signal from a station in Costa Rica (TI2CC). I thought I'd give him a call and tell him how much I enjoyed our recent visit to his lovely country. But first I looked up his call sign on QRZ.com. Well, lo and behold, his address matched the location of the property I'd seen in Santa Ana and there was even a photo of his array of antenna towers! What were the odds of that? Of course I quickly pointed my antenna his way, gave him a shout, and had a really nice QSO. Turns out he was also in my log from 15 years ago -- perhaps my first contact in Costa Rica (an ATNO, or "all-time-new-one" as we DXers say).

So why am I telling you this story? Well, after three years of trying my best to come up with interesting programs for our meetings I've started to run out of ideas for topics. I've already twisted the arms of all my friends and acquaintances who have done great programs for us these past few years. So I had to start thinking outside the box (sorry, I hate that expression too). I came up with the not so novel idea of doing an "Open Mic" night, where you guys share your stories with the club. The idea is to keep it short, say 5 minutes or so. You can have slides or other audio/visual aids if you want, but just talking is fine. The

topics can be technical (how I built a Heathkit receiver as a kid) or not (my first Elmer, the old man down the street). My taste runs to self-deprecating humor (how I fell off the ladder at Field Day) but we all need to brag sometimes too, so tell us about your Summits-on-the-Air activation from the top of Mt. Everest (and don't forget to acknowledge your Sherpa guides by name). I don't want anyone to spend hours preparing either. An off-the-cuff, ad lib presentation is more fun anyway, and I don't want this to be work.

I think an evening of a bunch of short stories by club members would be great. There's no pressure to participate, you can just come and listen. But I'd really appreciate it if you could share a story with us. Besides being interesting and entertaining, it's a great way for everyone to get to know each other better than just the Name, Callsign, QTH introductions we do at the start of each meeting.

So what do you say? Send me an email and let me know if you'll participate. If we get 10 people (or more) to opt in we can do it in October. If not enough of you are willing to take 5 minutes or less telling a ham-related story, we're going to subject you to a presentation on Maxwell's Equations (and there will be a test at the end)!

Future EBARC Programs

Martin Rothfield, W6MRR

I am taking over for Peter, W6DEI, for upcoming programs. It's a daunting task which Peter has done exceptionally well for years. We've had a long run of really great presentations and workshops.

I hope you can help me by telling me what programs you've enjoyed and why, so we can do more. Please let me know if there's a topic you'd like to see presented.

I am looking at some program activities for the club in the future. I have a couple of ideas for

more interactive programs. We could do a club kit build that could possibly take a few sessions. Maybe build some stuff for Maker Faire this year. We can also do some GOTA activities like an ersatz Field Day.

There is a possible microcontroller course that would be focused on ham related projects (APRS gizmo, crystal radio, HT, DMR radio, QRP antenna tuner, etc.).

Another possibility is a "minute talk" where we have several speaker who are allotted from 5 to 10 minutes to speak on a topic that interests them and might possibly interest other hams.

I will be doing a "Gentle introduction to DSP and gnuradio" presently and am working on locating more speakers. If you can help in that department, let me know.

It would be great if any of you would be interested in doing a full hour presentation for a meeting on a ham related topic of your choice - new radio, new radio modes, activities or anything else.

General Meeting Minutes

Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary

Opening: The Friday, 10 August 2018 general EBARC meeting in the El Sobrante United Methodist Church meeting room started at 7:40 p.m. There was a round of Introductions, including new ARRL East Bay Section Manager, Jim Siemons, and Joe Fisher, K5EJL, for his annual visit.

Program: Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1st VP / Program Chair: tonight's program is on the Moxon antenna. Next month is T.B.A.

Hospitality: Feed the Kitty.

Membership: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, *Blown Fuse* Editor, reminded members to send in details on any ham-related events they're

doing in time to be published. Also, the recent VE session had 11 people; 10 passed.

Finance: "We're solvent" - Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer.

Public Events/Education: Ken Fowler, KO6NO, says he's trying to have a Tech License class starting on the 1st Friday in September, running into November, so pass the word to prospective Hams.

Announcements:

- 1) Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President: Todd Teachout, KM6HFU, has agreed to be the nominating coordinator for the next EBARC Executive Committee elections. Talk to him if you want to be an officer, please.
- 2) Sharon, AA6XZ, reminded about the CCCC/EBARC picnic on September 9th (Miller-Knox Park, Pt. Richmond) and the CCCC/EBARC Christmas party on 8 December at *some* El Sol restaurant, more info to follow later. (CCCC: *Contra Costa Communication Club*)
- 3) Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF: VE Session for all license classes in Mill Valley, tomorrow.
- 4) Robin Spalding, N6RLS: Talked about kiwisdr.com website, with links to online radios, worldwide.
- 5) Martin Rothfield, W6MRR, reminded us to join the EBARC email Reflector. Email him for details and an invite to join.
- 6) During the presentation, Ken Fowler, KO6NO, said to contact him regarding use of the EBARC antenna analyzer.

Attendance: 20 signers of our meeting roster, 17 are EBARC members.

Closing: Minutes of the last General Meeting approved as printed in the *Blown Fuse*. There being no further business, the membership meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Next Meeting: The next EBARC meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Friday 14 September, 2018.

Presentation: Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, ad-libbed a very thorough, entertaining, and personalized talk about his Moxon antenna experiences, using many visuals, with details on how to build your own Moxon on any frequency. He mentioned moxgen.exe, a free, downloadable DOS program. He called the Moxon an "elegant antenna," and then proceeded to illustrate why.

A video on high-altitude ballooning was planned but, due to audio issues, it wasn't shown.

4Cs / EBARC Xmas Luncheon

The 4Cs/EBARC Christmas gathering will be at *El Sol Restaurant* in Rodeo. Selections will be announced later, and pies will be provided by us. The cost will be \$20 each. The date is Saturday, December 8th. More details will follow later.

California QSO Party is Oct 6-7. Details at www.cqp.org/files/CQP2018-Newsletter.pdf

Pacificon is October Oct 19-21 in San Ramon. For details, see www.pacificon.org.

Future Bay Area Events

- Current Bay Area Public Service Events: See www.ebarc.org, click on "Current Events", then scroll to "Public Service."
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. in the Media Room, 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way (at 16th St.), Oakland. The remaining test date for 2018 is Oct. 28th. The fee for 2018 is \$15. Info: 510-918-4627 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo ACS Training: Details from mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, www.cocoacs.org, or via RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$30 for individual membership, \$35 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebarc.w6cus@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2018 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Jay Sparks, KJ6HSH, President.....	384-4233
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, 1 st VP - Program Chair.....	684-6543
Ken Fowler, KO6NO, 2 nd VP - Hospitality.....	222-0830
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 rd VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Robin Spalding, N6RLS, Secretary / Twitter	528-1144
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	707-557-5521
Jim Fast, KK6NDG, Member-at-Large	237-7145
Member-at-Large	

2018 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

W6CUS Trustee; Jack Burris, K6JEB.....	415-305-2547
Club Station Manager; Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU.....	385-4044
Field Day & Education; Ken Fowler, KO6NO	222-0830
Webmaster, Facebook, & Meetup; Martin Rothfield, W6MRR	705-1199
Social & Digital Committees Chair	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian	

AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa EMCOMM Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES(ACS) Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session (traffic)	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"QRM Net"	Tues	1930 (PL 82.5-)	224.300
9 a.m. Talk Net	Mo-Fr	0900 (PL 100.0-)	145.230
Youth Net	Sat	1400 (PL 100.0-)	145.230

RACES(ACS), West CoCoCo: Mike McMillan, K6MCM, mcmillan50y@yahoo.com, phone 510 223-3052. Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s. ACS details are at www.cocoacs.org

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